GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1071
ANSWERED ON:20.08.2007
AGRICULTURAL GROWTH
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of sowing area of rabi crops particularly wheat and rice in the country;

(b) the comparative figures during the last years;

(c) whether the expert group in the Ministry reviewed the situation;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the decisions taken thereon;

(e) whether agricultural growth in the country has resulted in shrinking of areas under nutritionally rich crops like millets, grain legumes and oilseeds;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the growth rate in case of sugar, egg, milk, vegetables and fruits has been less than spectacular than in China; and

(h) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a) to (d): Following table gives the area coverage under different kharif crops as reported on 10.08.2007 in the weekly meeting of the Crop Weather Watch Group in the Ministry:

Crop	Area Sown (Lakh Hectares) 2007-08 (As on 10.08.2007)	2006-07 (Corresponding period)
Rice	260.77	261.74
Coarse Cereals	193.26	177.75
Pulses	104.34	95.45
Oilseeds	159.30	148.78
Cotton	86.24	81.74
Sugarcane	51.16	48.32
Jute	7.89	8.18
All Crops	864.43	823.48

Wheat is a Rabi crop and its sowing will start in October 2007. The Crop Weather Watch Group reviews, besides sowing position of crops, the weather and inputs supply position on a weekly basis. It has found that the progress of sowing under different crops is satisfactory.

(e) & (f): Following table gives the area under jowar, bajra, small millets, pulses and oilseeds during 2005-06 and 2006-07:

(Lakh Hectares)

Year	Jowar	Bajra	Small Millets	Pulses	Oilseeds
2005-06	86.67	95.81	10.64	223.91	278.63
2006-07@	84.51	95.24	10.05	231.13	260.53

@ 4th advance estimates as on 19.07.2007

Area coverage under oilseeds has come down but has increased significantly under pulses.

(g) & (h): Following table gives the production of Eggs, Milk, Fruits, Vegetables and sugar in India and in China during the years 2004 and 2005 and the growth rate during this period:

Commodity/ Country	Unit	Production 2004	Production 2005	Growth Rate (%)
Eggs				
India	000 Tonnes	2,486.00	2,539.00	2.1
China	000 Tonnes	27,612.49	28,645.29	3.7
Milk				
India	000 Tonnes	91,059.00	95,619.00	5.0
China	000 Tonnes	24,273.07	29,402.98	21.1
Fruits				
India	000 Tonnes	30,474.94	31,239.76	2.5
China	000 Tonnes	44,126.77	46,334.53	5.0
Vegetables				
India	000 Tonnes	48,593.72	50,635.04	4.2
China	000 Tonnes	161075.89	166378.54	3.3
Sugar				
India	000 Tonnes	15,150.00	14,170.00	-6.5
China	000 Tonnes	9,317.00	10,371.00	11.3

Source: FAO website accessed on 17.08.2007.

Note: Fruits include apple, banana, citrus fruits, figs, grapes, guava, mango, orange, papaya and pineapple. Vegetables include cabbage, cauliflower, onion, potato and tomato.

The growth rates of all the above commodities except vegetables are more in China than India. Several schemes are under implementation to increase the production of these commodities. The production in the country has shown positive growth rate during this period in all the commodities except sugar. Sugar production has shown significant growth in recent years.